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The Meramec Greenway...A...
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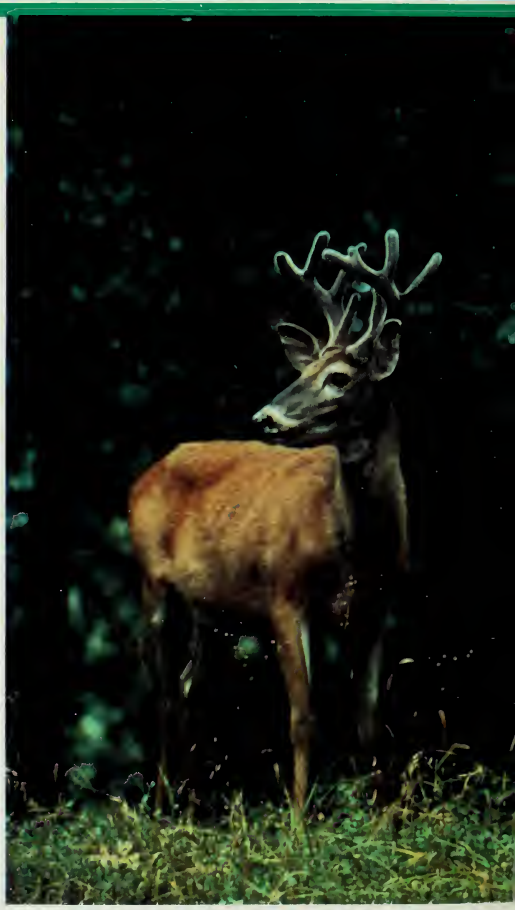
THE MERAMEC GREENWAY . . .

...a vision for the valley

The Meramec Greenway is a vision for a renewed and revitalized Meramec River Valley. Shared by agriculture and industry, dotted with parks, forests, and wildlife areas, the Meramec River Valley offers an opportunity for outdoor recreation in a quiet refuge away from the pressures and fast-paced life of the St. Louis metropolitan area.

The parks and natural areas along the Meramec River provide the framework for this unique greenway of Ozark scenery. Protecting the scenic quality of the Meramec River and improving the state and local parks within the valley will help create an unrivaled greenway of public open space. Such a greenway will not only offer recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike, but will also spur economic growth by encouraging private investment in the development of new recreational facilities.



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...a united effort

Foresight and a dedication to the preservation of the scenic beauty of the Meramec River created the partnership known as the MERAMEC RIVER RECREATION ASSOCIATION.

The Association began in 1975 when the Governor of Missouri designated the lower 108 miles of the valley as the Meramec River Recreation Area. Representatives from the state of Missouri, the counties and cities along the lower river, adjacent landowners, and private citizens were all invited to join hands in the preservation, enhancement and management of the Meramec River.

The Association formally addresses the protection of the Lower Meramec Valley and proposes recommendations for restoring this important river resource. The improvement of water quality, the protection of natural features and floodplains, and the development of public and private recreational facilities are a few of the issues of concern for the Association.

In 1981, the Meramec River Recreation Association became a non-profit corporation. Today, it serves as one of the principal civic organizations dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Meramec River.

AN URBAN GREENWAY: An open-space connector linking parks, natural reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and with populated areas.

...in the old days

The Meramec River resorts saw their heyday in the early 1900s; during the roaring twenties, trains brought hundreds of people out to the resort towns of Castlewood, Valley Park, Sherman, Glencoe, and Times Beach.

There were swimming docks, a floating dance floor, hotels, and huge beaches like famed Lincoln Beach.

Those days on the Meramec were days to be remembered.

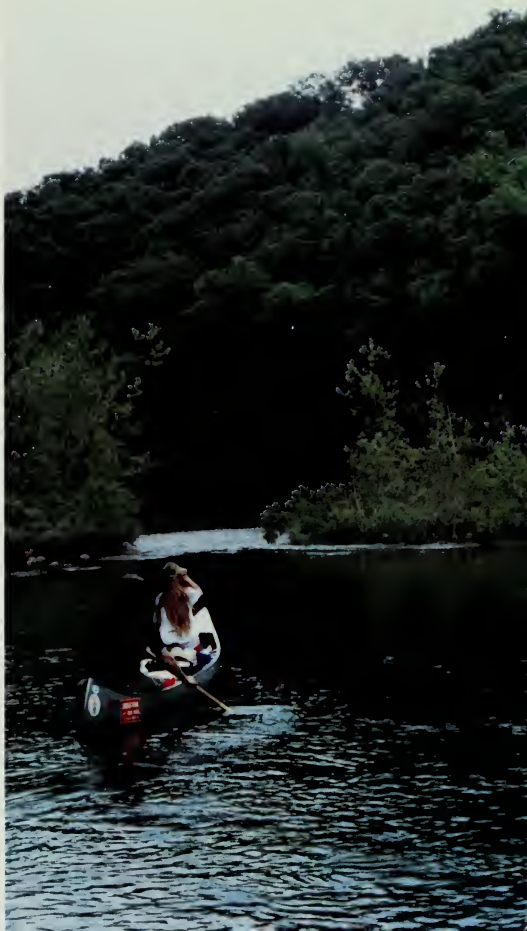
The Meramec River was an important resource to the people of the region then, and today, the Meramec River is once again being restored to its place of prominence in the lives of people throughout the St. Louis metropolitan region and Missouri.

...to meet the demand

Rising incomes, increased leisure time, and greater mobility contribute to an increasing demand for recreational opportunities in this country. However, energy costs and a growing interest in discovering short weekend "escapes," rather than in taking long vacations, speak to the need for recreational developments close to population centers. The Meramec Greenway offers an opportunity for this kind of development in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Today, many people find themselves working in controlled office environments, making the opportunity for satisfying outdoor experiences even more important. Outdoor recreation, fresh air, nature appreciation, and enhanced personal health are all benefits to be derived from the out-of-doors and serve to counteract the routine patterns of daily life.

The special "close-to-home" setting of the Meramec Greenway provides the opportunity for short day trips and family adventures. Drive an hour from the Arch and see elk and bison at St. Louis County's Lone Elk Park or go boating at Winter Park. Camp at Greensfelder Park, or hike the trails at Rockwoods Range Conservation Area and Castlewood State Park. Learn more about the environment at Shaw Arboretum or study wildlife and explore the fields of medical and biological research at Tyson Research Center and Forest 44.
All of these educational and outdoor experiences are yours to enjoy close to home in the St. Louis metropolitan area.



EDUCATION

OPEN SPACE

RECREATION

The Meramec Greenway . . .A Growing Reality

Hidden beneath the abuse common to rivers in an urban area is an outstanding river resource with high bluffs, caverns, springs and oak forests. But the abuses are serious. Degradation continues from pollution and litter; buildings constructed too close to the river suffer frequent flood damage; and the land itself continues to erode at an alarming rate. The Meramec River Recreation Association is working to correct these abuses and to help people enjoy the river once again. Gifts of land to local and state park agencies are being sought, as well as conservation and recreation easements to protect the riverbank. Funds are needed to acquire key natural areas in the Greenway and to link existing parks with trails.

All the parks and other public lands shown on the map are administered by local governments and institutions who participate as members of the Meramec River Recreation Association. Based on the belief that recreation resources can best be administered at the local level the Meramec River Recreation Association proposes a cooperative state, local and private effort toward river preservation. The Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the cities of Kirkwood, Fenton, Arnold, Valley Park, and the St. Louis and Jefferson County Departments of Parks and Recreation all own and manage areas along the river. These public parks help to conserve the resource and make the stream and Ozark scenery accessible to everyone. The lands shown on the map are available now for public use and enjoyment but many other acquisitions and improvements are coming. With your help, the Meramec Greenway will continue to grow.

The Meramec Greenway is a growing reality piloted by the people of this region who care about the quality of the environment in which they live and raise their families. Events such as Operation Cleanstream and the Great Meramec River Raft Float are testimony to growing public support for the Meramec resource. Much has been accomplished because of the generous donations of individuals and corporations. Today Emmenegger, Greensfelder and Buder Park are only a few of the generous donations of land. The future success of the Meramec Greenway is dependent on similar action from public spirited citizens.

Become a part of the growing reality of the Meramec Greenway through a tax deductible donation to the Meramec River Recreation Association. Your donation will help provide needed recreational opportunities, preserve wildlife and natural areas and maintain the image that the St. Louis metropolitan region is a place to live and to work and to recreate.

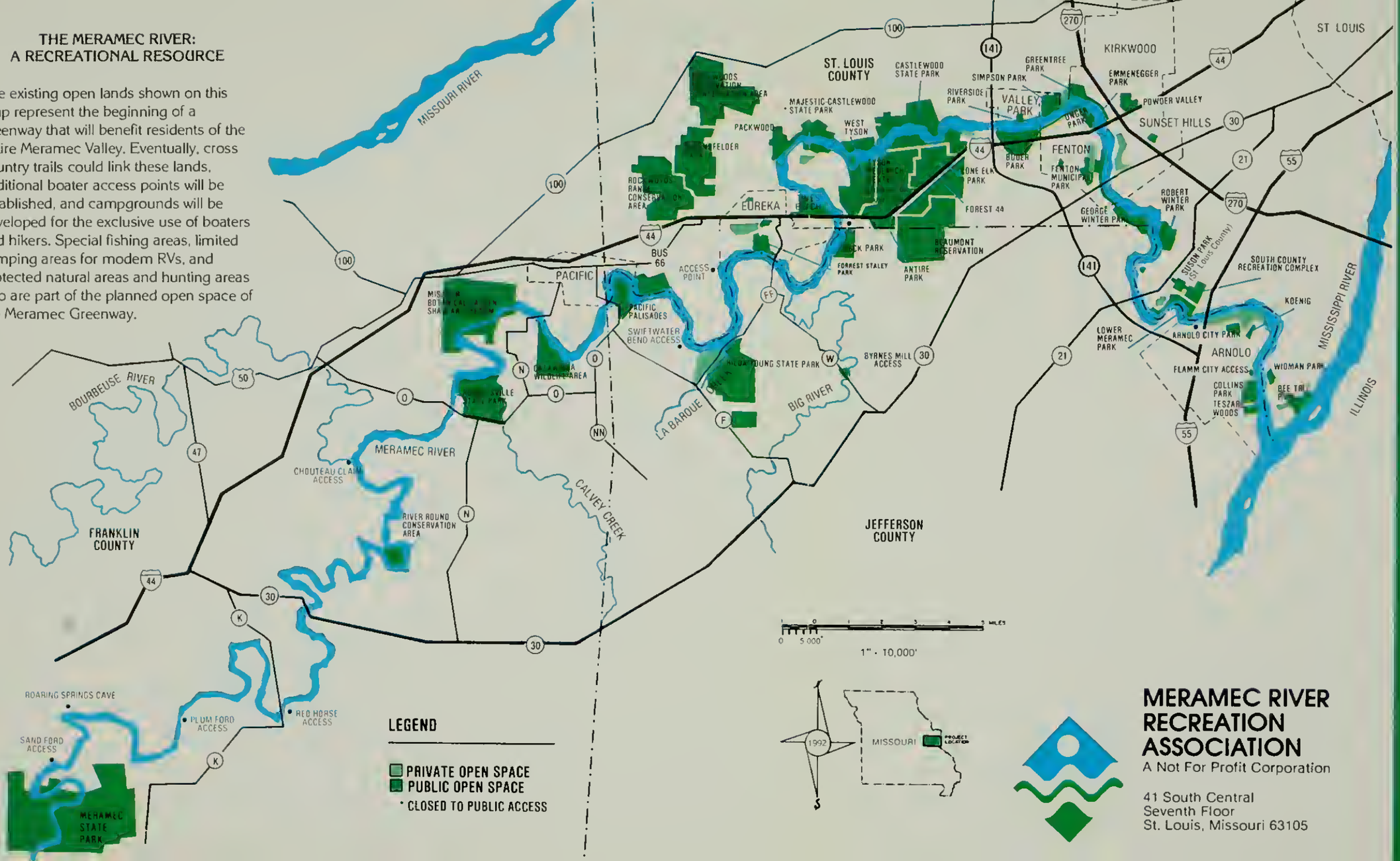
EDUCATION

OPEN SPACE

RECREATION

THE MERAMEC RIVER: A RECREATIONAL RESOURCE

The existing open lands shown on this map represent the beginning of a greenway that will benefit residents of the entire Meramec Valley. Eventually, cross country trails could link these lands, additional boater access points will be established, and campgrounds will be developed for the exclusive use of boaters and hikers. Special fishing areas, limited camping areas for modern RVs, and protected natural areas and hunting areas also are part of the planned open space of the Meramec Greenway.



MERAMEC RIVER RECREATION ASSOCIATION
A Not For Profit Corporation

41 South Central
Seventh Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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"... the Meramec is a unique treasure, but through uncoordinated development and urbanization we are in danger of losing it."

Peter H. Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden

"Making the Meramec Greenway a reality is the goal of the Meramec River Recreation Association. With each new acquisition, we move closer to that reality while enhancing the quality of life in the St. Louis region. Preservation of the natural heritage of the Meramec in the midst of a growing metropolitan region, while simultaneously developing additional recreation areas and facilities is something we all can and should support."

St. Louis County Executive Buzz Westfall

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Missouri State Park Advisory Board does hereby express gratitude to the Meramec River Recreation Association for its commitment to accomplishing the goal to protect the Meramec River resource, congratulates the Association for its past successes, wishes the Association continued success in its endeavors on the Meramec River.*

"The accomplishments of the Meramec River Recreation Association are outstanding examples of what can be achieved when state and local governments work together toward a common goal. The Meramec River was once a treasure and, thanks to the MRRA, is becoming a treasure again."

Congresswoman Joan Kelly Horn

"The Meramec River is a treasure. By working together to restore it, we can realize its full potential as one of Missouri's great recreational resources."

Congressman Dick Gephardt

"... I strongly applaud the MRRA's fight for a worthy cause, and hope the local government and private sector will continue to contribute to Missouri's need for conservation and preservation..."

Senator Christopher S. Bond

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